



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

26 April 1966

Mr. R. W. van de Velde, Faculty Secretary  
Rockefeller Public Service Award  
Woodrow Wilson Hall, Princeton University  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. van de Velde:

I wish to nominate Mr. Richard M. Helms, Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, for the Rockefeller Public Service Award in the field of Foreign Affairs-International Operations.

Mr. Helms has had a distinguished and unusual, if not unprecedented, career in the Federal Government. He served for many years as the senior U.S. foreign intelligence operations officer and now as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence has responsibilities involving the entire U.S. intelligence effort. His long record of significant achievements in support of the U.S. foreign policy objectives certainly merits public recognition; but, as you know, the nature of our work in the Central Intelligence Agency precludes the disclosure of his specific accomplishments to the general public.

I welcome the opportunity to recommend Mr. Helms for this honor and consider that his outstanding service to this Nation is worthy of the great prestige accorded recipients of the Rockefeller Public Service Awards. If more detail than that in the enclosed document is desired, I will be glad to have a senior officer in our Agency brief the Committee on Selection concerning Mr. Helms' specific accomplishments.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

W. F. Raborn  
Director

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Enclosure

1966 ROCKEFELLER PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

NOMINATION OF MR. RICHARD HELMS

Helms, Richard McGarrah	:	Deputy Director of Central Intelligence Washington, D. C. 20505	STATOTHR
Grade	:	Federal Executive Salary Level III	
Government Service	:	24 years	
Residence	:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div>	
Date and Place of Birth	:	March 1913, St. Davids, Penn.	
Education	:	1929-31 LeRosey, Rolle, Switzerland Realgymnasium. Freiburg, Germany 1931-35 Williams College, Williamstown, Mass. BA; Member of Phi Beta Kappa 1942 Naval Training School, Harvard Univ.	

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Mr. Helms has been with the Central Intelligence Agency since the Agency's creation after World War II. He began his career in intelligence work as a naval officer with the Office of Strategic Services, a predecessor organization of CIA. His brilliant wartime service was followed by outstanding performance as an expert in Eastern European affairs. He became deputy to the Deputy Director for Plans in 1953 and was in 1962 appointed Deputy Director for Plans by John A. McCone, then Director of Central Intelligence. In April 1965 President Johnson appointed Mr. Helms the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Mr. Helms achieved his present position as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence through distinguished service in a succession of career positions in the Central Intelligence Agency and its predecessor organizations—a career of more than two decades on the frontiers of foreign affairs. As Deputy Director for Plans, he was the senior United States foreign intelligence operations officer. As such, he managed with great success our country's clandestine foreign intelligence programs, providing timely intelligence vital to our national defense and security. As guardian of these operations he was also responsible for conducting counter-intelligence measures necessary to prevent opposition elements from damaging our efforts. Now, as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, he has responsibilities involving the organization, management, and effectiveness of United States foreign intelligence activities which are of critical importance to the success of our foreign policy objectives and to the security of the Free World. Although Mr. Helms' achievements have not come to general public attention because of the arcane nature of his work, he has performed a truly outstanding service to the Nation during his unusual, if not unprecedented, career in Government service.

## 1966 ROCKEFELLER PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

### NOMINATION OF MR. RICHARD HELMS

Our nomination of Mr. Helms, who grew up with CIA, is recognition of the distinguished service of a dedicated public servant with a deep commitment to safeguarding our country and to furthering its best interests. He is now at the forefront as a manager of U.S. foreign intelligence. On April 28, 1965 at the swearing-in ceremony of Mr. Helms as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, President Johnson stated, "Few career men in this government are so highly respected as Mr. Helms."

The members of the Central Intelligence Agency share the President's high esteem of Mr. Helms. He is known in CIA and in the United States intelligence community as a "man of action" who has successfully served his country for more than two decades in a government activity where the stakes are great. As Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, he has responsibilities of the utmost importance to the U.S. Government. Members of our Agency have the greatest confidence in him and believe that his leadership has been a major factor in developing the intelligence function to its full and proper role in supporting the conduct of our country's foreign affairs. This confidence was won by his demonstration of a high order of wisdom, selflessness, dedication, and integrity, as well as a long record of phenomenal successes. Because of security considerations, the story of many of Mr. Helms' brilliant achievements is known to only a relatively few officials in the executive and legislative branches of our Government.

Mr. Helms early in life was exposed to the international scene. He received his secondary schooling in Switzerland and Germany, as well as in the United States. Following graduation from Williams College in 1935, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, he entered the field of journalism. He served as United Press correspondent in Berlin and later became national advertising manager of the Indianapolis Times Publishing Company. He began his career in intelligence during World War II as a naval officer with the Office of Strategic Services, the wartime U.S. intelligence agency. His intimate knowledge of Europe led to assignments dealing with OSS plans and operations in the European Theatre. At the end of the war, he served as a civilian officer in the successor organization to OSS and remained in intelligence with CIA, when it was established in 1947.

In the difficult atmosphere of intelligence reorganization during the post-war period, Mr. Helms was given the task of creating in the Central Intelligence Agency an intelligence capability to keep abreast of developments in Eastern Europe and also establishing liaison relationships with the intelligence

elements of friendly nations as well. The organization and relationships developed then under Mr. Helms' clear-thinking leadership have served the United States well since that time and attest to his abilities to bring order and stability to difficult situations. Mr. Helms' success in discharging these responsibilities resulted in his appointment in 1951 as Chief of Operations for that portion of the Agency charged with world-wide collection missions. In 1953, in a reorganization of the Agency, Mr. Helms' responsibilities were greatly multiplied and expanded. These he discharged with high success and with an incisive manner that served both to stimulate and to inspire his associates. His work during this period showed a profound awareness of the role of foreign intelligence in contributing to the development of Government policy and the conduct of foreign affairs. In 1962, Mr. Helms was named Deputy Director for Plans with responsibility for the planning and direction of Agency intelligence activities overseas.

The position of Deputy Director for Plans in this Agency is a post unique in the organizational structure of the U.S. Government. It calls for the exercise of the soundest judgment in directing overseas collection operations; it requires an ability to deal, day to day, with the senior policy-making officials in our government in order to insure that the Agency's work abroad is responsive to government needs and interests; and, it demands an enlightened understanding of the measures used by ruthless foes in efforts to undermine the security and reputation of the U.S. Government. Mr. Helms has excelled at all of these tasks.

Responsibility for our counterintelligence function--the prevention or exposure of covert operations abroad targeted against U.S. intelligence organizations and personalities--was inherent in Mr. Helms' position as Deputy Director for Plans. In 1961 he received the approbation of a Congressional committee for his superbly documented testimony on the activities of the Soviet intelligence service (K. G. B.) in formulating and distributing what purported to be certain official papers of the United States, Britain, and other countries of the Free World. These forged documents were intended, of course, to discredit the United States in the eyes of the world. Mr. Helms' testimony, published by resolution of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary under the title of "Communist Forgeries," was of such far-reaching value that it subsequently was published in five foreign languages and has served to alert and instruct others as to the techniques and fraudulent practices of the opposition.

As Deputy Director for Plans, Mr. Helms managed with great success the Agency's intelligence collection programs throughout the world. These overseas activities have made strategically significant contributions to our Government's information concerning the nature, the capabilities, and the intentions of our adversaries. Conduct of these activities required operational and political sophistication and sensitivity. The results have included critically

important scientific and military information and strategic political and economic intelligence. The information thus acquired has served to support U.S. policymakers in their conduct of our country's foreign affairs and in their development of national defense techniques and hardware.

Over the years, Mr. Helms served as a member of the inner cabinets of Mr. Dulles and Mr. McCone, prior Directors of Central Intelligence, and in this capacity contributed notably to the general policy administration and development of the Central Intelligence Agency and the intelligence community. He was called upon frequently to present critically important briefings to officials at the highest level of the U.S. Government. His advice and counsel have been sought by senior intelligence officials, including professionals in intelligence operations and intelligence chiefs of other countries of the Free World. His personal and professional rapport with these foreign intelligence officials has had on many occasions a salutary effect on political and defense relationships between the U.S. Government and its Allies.

Mr. McCone nominated Mr. Helms for the 1965 Career Service Award sponsored by the National Civil Service League and the members of our Agency were indeed proud to have him selected for this most deserved honor.

President Johnson appointed Mr. Helms as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence in April 1965. As Deputy Director he works directly with the Director of Central Intelligence, the President's principal foreign intelligence advisor, in guiding the activities of the CIA and in coordinating the work of the entire U.S. intelligence effort.

In sum, Mr. Helms personifies the best characteristics of a truly distinguished leader skilled in the complex arts of foreign intelligence, a dynamic administrator, and a career officer dedicated to the Government. The associates of Mr. Helms feel that his brilliant and progressive career in the Central Intelligence Agency is indeed evidence of a high degree of excellence in the civilian career services of the Federal Government. It is their hope that he will be honored for his outstanding contributions to the Nation by being named a recipient of the coveted Rockefeller Public Service Award in the field of Foreign Affairs.

**REFERENCES:** Mr. Richard M. Helms  
Central Intelligence Agency

Persons well acquainted with Mr. Helms' work and to whom inquiry may be addressed by the Committee on Selection:

Mr. Allen W. Dulles

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Mr. John A. McCone

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The Honorable John Gardner  
The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare  
330 Independence Avenue, S. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20201

The Honorable Stuart Symington  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Bohlen  
American Ambassador  
Paris, France

Mr. Gordon Gray

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Mr. Clark M. Clifford

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